Disclaimer: The following list of courses is based on our best available information. We do not guarantee instructor, courses, location and time are accurate.

CORE COURSES

AMST 500: Introduction to American Studies and Ethnicity (4)
This seminar is intended to introduce first-year graduate students in our Ph.D. program to the key theories and methodologies in the field. For some years, we have discussed the idea of the seminar also providing first-year graduate students with introductions to the current research of faculty teaching in the graduate program. In Fall 2019, we tried out this idea, and everyone in the seminar agreed it was a great success. This year’s seminar will be organized around readings of research by our faculty and, whenever possible, presented by those faculty to the students. As Chair of the Department, I will be the instructor of record – responsible for organizing the readings, discussions, and faculty visits, as well as for completing the final evaluations of enrolled students. I have not yet finalized which of our colleagues will be visiting the seminar, but approximately 6-8 faculty teaching in our graduate program will visit the seminar. We will work with those faculty to select work by them (or others) they wish to discuss with us. The seminar is an experiment pedagogy, so we will be able to discuss that aspect of the seminar in conjunction with first-year graduate students’ professionalization. Each student will complete a 15-page “position paper” on that student’s desired theory and method in work toward the Ph.D. Prof. John Rowe, M 5-7:20pm

AMST 553: Race, Gender and Sexuality (4)
Interdisciplinary investigation of concepts, theories, and debates in the study of race and its intersection with gay, lesbian, trans, heterosexual and other sexualities/genders. Prof. Chris Finley, W 5-7:50pm

AMST 585: Topics in Cultural Theory (4)
What counts as theory? How might we reimagine theory otherwise? What are the epistemological, political, and aesthetic consequences of this reimagining? We will engage three primary nodes of inquiry in exploring these central questions: 1) select works of “foundational” French poststructuralism (especially Deleuze) and the Frankfurt School; 2) contemporary cultural theory (e.g., Neetu Khanna, Kara Keeling, Zakiyyah Iman Jackson); 3) work that bends genre. The third module serves as introduction to the “Creativity, Theory, Politics” research cluster. Works that engage creativity, aesthetics, epistemology, and politics through performative writing include Kondo (theater), Adrian DeLeon and Nomi Stone (poetry/poetry as ethnography), Anand Pandian (cinema), Aimee Meredith Cox (dance). Some of these scholars will visit our class to engage with us during the semester. I look forward to an exciting, pathbreaking re-imagining of the relationship of the arts, scholarship and politics. Prof. Dorinne Kondo, F 9-11:50am
AMST 593: Practicum in Teaching the Liberal Arts: American Studies (2)
Practical principles for the long term development of effective teaching within college disciplines, intended for teaching assistants in American Studies and Ethnicity.
Prof. Alicia Chavez, F 1-2:20pm

AMST 599: Special Topics- Middle East Diasporas
Prof. Sarah Gualtieri, Tues 2-4:50pm

AMST 680: Interdisciplinary Research Seminar in Cultural Studies: Necropolitics
“What place is given to life, death, and the human body (in particular the wounded or slain body)? How are they inscribed in the order of power?” historian and political philosopher Achille Mbembe asks in his 2003 essay, “Necropolitics.” Pairing Mbembe’s “Necropolitics” with the texts of its genealogy (Foucault, Agamben, Arendt, Hartman, Fanon), as well as contemporary and transnational cultural studies on death, especially as it relates to modernity, political economy, and the logics of capital. Collectively, in our research projects, we will consider how the violent establishment of capitalist relations, from infrastructural development to labor mobilization, simultaneously organizes who must die, by what means, and to what degree of (un)mournability. In our own disciplinary and thematic vantage points, we will consider what it means to center death, body counts, and mourning in the creation of states, empires, politics, social change, and culture. Themes will include: slaughter, haunting, mourning, disposability, remains, and the “death worlds” of colonialism. Students shall develop an empirical or theoretical journal article-length research paper by the end of the semester, with an eye towards publication. Prof. Adrian De Leon, Wed 2-4:50pm

AMST 700: Theories and Practices of Professional Development (4)
Offers students a structured environment in which to write their dissertation proposals and focuses on professional development. Completion of qualifying exam.
Prof. Nayan Shah, Mon 4-6:30pm

OTHER COURSES OF INTEREST

ANTH 562: The Practice of Ethnography (4)
Major approaches to ethnographic fieldwork are explored in classic cases.
Prof. TBA, Tues 4-6:50pm

CRIT 599: Theory & History of Performance Studies and Visual Cultures (4)
This seminar in Theory & History explores the various theories and methodologies associated with performance studies and visual cultures as interrelated with the histories of practice in these fields. Amelia Jones, Tues 10-1:20pm

COMM 520: The Rhetoric of the Presidential Campaign Trail (4)
Students follow the ongoing presidential campaign and consider topics such as gender, race, new media, polling, religion, and advertising on election outcomes.
Professor Tom Hollihan, Tues 5-7:50pm
COMM 654: Art, Artists and Society (4)
Although the arts are generally seen as forms of communication, what they communicate, how, and to whom, is not always easy to explain. The course will consider how different cultures and periods have defined the nature and role of the arts and of artists and audiences. Particular attention will be paid to the roots of the modern sense of alienation and incomprehension with which most people approach the fine arts. We will also explore the aesthetic dimension of experience with the arts as well as other objects and events; and the ways in which the arts have served as vehicles for the transmission of central cultural beliefs. Larry Gross, Mon 2-4:50pm

CTCS 500: Seminar in Film Theory (4)
Introduction to classical and contemporary film theory; exploration of their relationship to close textual analysis and filmic experimentation. Prof. TBA, Thurs 10-1:50pm

CTCS 564: Seminar in Film and Television Genre: Birth of the Cool (4)
Advanced study of a selected genre of film and/or television—it's relation to history, society, and culture, as well as to genre theory. Prof. Todd Boyd, W 1-6:50pm

CTCS 569: Seminar in Film and Television Authors: Latinx Media (4)
This seminar will explore the formation and definition of the category "Latinx Media." Beginning with the early, transnational circulation of media across the U.S.-Mexico border we will consider the geopolitics of media production and distribution in Puerto Rico, the rise of Spanish-language television, the use of media in struggles for social justice, and media industries cultivation of diverse audiences under rubrics such as Hispanic and Latino. We will explore the aesthetics of Latinx media and its relationship to cultural nationalism, Latin@futurism, and decolonial thought. Prof. Laura Isabel Serna, Mon 10-1:50pm

CTCS 673: Topics in Theory: Media, Nationalism, and Global Crisis
Post colonialism implies a temporal shift in global patterns of domination. More importantly, it is a position that enables us to study the operation of power in geopolitics, modernity, and post modernity, subjectivity, and culture. This course explores the theory and consequences for critical media studies, reading the works of Marx, Lenin, Fanon, Arendt, Said, Appiah, Jameson, Ahmed, Dubey, Mohanty, Spivak, and Bhabha among others, with film screenings from a range of national contexts. Prof. Aniko Imre, Th 2:00-5:50pm

ENGL 501: History of Literary and Cultural Theory
The assumptions and practices of major theorist and theoretical schools from Plato to literary modernism. William Handley, Margaret Nelson, Tues 2-4:20pm

ENGL 504: Theories of Race, Class, and Gender: “From Representation to Decolonization” Representation has been a crucial aesthetic, cultural, and political concept for minorities of all kinds in the United States and elsewhere. In literary and other artistic contexts, representation has been a key demand for marginalized populations who wish to see more stories about themselves, as well as more images, reflections, etc. “Representation matters!” has become a rallying cry, and the political stakes are high, given how the opposition to such a demand is sometimes couched as a defense of the Western canon, culture, and even civilization against the inclusion of artistically unworthy works (and the culturally unworthy populations these works represent). Viet Nguyen, Mon 4:30-6:50pm
ENGL 610: Theory and Criticism
Studies in meaning and meaning making, form, comparative theory, theories of history and culture, theory in the classroom and other topics. Zakiyah Jackson, Thu 4:30-6:50pm

ENGL 650: Multicultural Literary Studies: The African American Novel
This course will consider a range of narrative that are central to the African American tradition, beginning with the recent controversy over which text does or does not truly constitute the “first” African American novel and giving some considerations to why that debate would ensue and to the issues which would fuel it. Elda Maria Roman, Wed 4:30-6:50pm

ENGL 660: Studies in Genre
History, transformation, and theory of genre,; studies in epic, lyric, drama, comedy, tragedy, the novel, biography, essay, and other forms. Joseph Boone, Tues, 4:30-6:50pm

HIST 500: Introduction to Graduate Historical Studies
Techniques, theories, and sub-disciplines of history. Paul Lerner, Tues 2-4:50pm

HIST 587: Studies in the Politics of American Popular Culture
Selected themes, theories and key works in the politics of American Popular Culture
Steve Ross, Mon 10-12:50pm

PSYC 660: Seminar in Clinical Psychology
Selected topics in clinical psychology. Steven Lopez, Thur 9:00-1:00pm

SOCI 521: Quantitative Methods and Statistics I
Introduction to the logic and tools of quantitative analysis in sociology; covers the basic elements of designing research, summarizing and exploring patterns in data, and making generalizations about populations based on characteristics of samples. Tim Biblarz, Time Days TBA